

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 17, 18 and 20, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A process for forming a stable, high solids content, partially aqueous composition containing reduced (*rho-*) iso- α -acids, comprising the steps, in sequence, of (A) heating a concentrated solution preparation of reduced (*rho-*) iso- α -acids in their undissolved free acid form to fluid state, and (B) adding a concentrated aqueous alkali metal hydroxide solution to said heated solution preparation of reduced (*rho-*) iso- α -acids, with stirring, to form a concentrated solution containing an alkali metal salt of said reduced (*rho-*) iso-alpha-acids.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The process of claim 17, wherein said concentrated aqueous alkali hydroxide solution is added to said heated preparation of reduced (*rho-*) iso- α -acids stepwise until a substantially neutral or slightly alkaline pH is attained.

Claim 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): The process of claim 17, further comprising the step (C) of cooling said resulting, concentrated aqueous solution of the alkali metal salts of reduced (*rho-*) iso- α -acids of step (B) to room temperature.

Claim 21 (original): The process of claim 17, wherein said concentrated alkali metal hydroxide solution comprises potassium hydroxide.

Claim 22 (original): The process of claim 21, wherein said potassium hydroxide comprises a saturated aqueous solution containing about 45 weight percent potassium hydroxide.

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Claims 23 - 27 (cancelled)

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